BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1 2 JEFF HATCH-MILLER Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman 3 WILLIAM A. MUNDELL DOCKETED Commissioner MARC SPITZER JUN - 1 2005 Commissioner 5 MIKE GLEASON DOCKETED BY Commissioner 6 KRISTIN K. MAYES JUN 0 2 2005 Commissioner 8 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION DOCKET NO. W-01624A-05-0276 OF BIG PARK WATER COMPANY, INC., 9 DECISION NO. 67882 FOR IMMEDIATE APPROVAL OF AN OFF-SITE FACILITIES ARSENIC IMPACT **ORDER** 10 HOOK-UP FEE TARIFF 11 12 Open Meeting 13 May 24 and 25, 2005 Phoenix, Arizona 14 BY THE COMMISSION: 15 **FINDINGS OF FACT** 16 Big Park Water Company, Inc. ("Big Park" or "Company") provides water utility 1. 17 service in the Village of Oak Creek, just south of Sedona, in Yavapai County. 18 2. On April 13, 2005, Big Park filed an Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff. The 19 Company is undertaking a treatment construction project to reduce the level of arsenic 20 concentration in its water supply so it can meet the new arsenic standard in 2006. The Company 21 plans to use proceeds from the proposed Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff to assist in 22 constructing the arsenic treatment facilities. 23 On April 20, 2005, the Company docketed a letter agreeing to waive the applicable 3. 24 timeclock. 25 The Company's water system consists of seven wells, six storage tanks and booster 4. 26 systems serving approximately 2,800 service connections. The arsenic levels at the wells are as 27

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follows; Well #1 at 35 parts per billion ("ppb"), Well #2 at 28 ppb, Well #3 at 30 ppb, Well #4 at 29 ppb, Well #5 at 42 ppb, Well Casa del Corte at 34 ppb and Well Fox Phillips at 47 ppb.

- The proposed Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff will be used to assist in the construction of arsenic treatment facilities totaling to \$1,163,933. The Company seeks approval of an Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff of \$1,050 for all new 5/8 x 3/4-inch service connections, graduated for larger meter sizes.
- 6. Staff has reviewed the Company's proposed fee charges and recommends adjustments to the proposed fees. Staff's recommendation is an Arsenic Impact Hook-Up Fee Tariff of \$330 for all new 5/8 x 3/4-inch service connections, graduated for larger meter sizes. The Company's proposal focuses on new growth and the Company calculated its proposed fee by applying the total capital cost of \$1,163,933 and dividing by the projected new customers of 714. However, it is Staff's position that the existing customers will also benefit from the arsenic treatment facilities and therefore, the total capital cost should be divided by 3,514 customers (2,800 existing customers plus 714 projected customers) in determining the appropriate tariff charge.
- 7. Staff recommends approval of the Company's Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff as modified by Staff and reflected in Staff's attached Tariff Schedule.
 - 8. Staff further recommends that:
 - a. The monies collected under this tariff shall be used to pay for only arsenic treatment equipment and related appurtenances (including engineering and design costs for such facilities) necessary for the removal of arsenic through treatment of water to meet the 10 ppb arsenic standard.
 - b. The tariff is applicable to all new service connections established after the effective date of the tariff.
 - c. The tariff shall be non-refundable; therefore, facilities installed using these funds shall be contributions in aid of construction.
 - d. All funds collected by the Company pursuant to the tariff shall be deposited into a separate interest bearing trust account and used solely for the purposes of paying for the costs of arsenic treatment facilities, including repayment of loans obtained for the installation of arsenic treatment facilities that will benefit the entire water system.
 - e. After all necessary funds are collected to pay for all Arizona Department of Environmental Quality required arsenic treatment facilities or the tariff has

been terminated by order of the Commission, any funds not necessary to pay for arsenic treatment facilities remaining in the trust shall be refunded. The manner of the refund shall be determined by the Commission at the time a refund becomes necessary.

- f. The Company be required to submit a calendar year status report each by January 31st to Docket Control for the prior every twelve (12) month period, beginning January 31, 2006, until the tariff is no longer in effect. This status report should contain a list of all customers that have paid the tariff, the amount each has paid, the amount of money spent from the account, the amount of interest earned on the tariff account, and a list of all facilities that have been installed with the tariff funds during the 12 month period.
- While the Commission agrees with most of Staff's recommendations, it believes the Arsenic Impact Hook-Up Fee Tariff should be set at a higher amount to lessen the financial impact of arsenic treatment on existing customers. Therefore, the tariff shall be \$600 for all new $5/8 \times 3/4$ -inch service connections, graduated for larger meters.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- Big Park is an Arizona public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV, Section 2, of the Arizona Constitution.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over Big Park and over the subject matter of the application.
- Approval of the filing does not constitute a rate increase as contemplated by A.R.S. Section 40-250.
- 4. The Commission, having reviewed the application and Staff's Memorandum dated May 10. 2005, concludes that the Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff, as amended by Staff, is reasonable, fair and equitable and therefore is in the public interest.
- Staff's recommendations, as set forth in Findings of Fact No. 8 and 9, are reasonable and should be adopted.

ORDER

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Big Park Water Company, Inc.'s application for a tartff schedule to implement an Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee as amended by Staff, be and hereby is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Big Park Water Company, Inc. shall comply with the requirements contained in Findings of Fact No. 8 and 9.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Big Park Water Company, Inc. shall docket, within 30 days, a copy of the Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff approved herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall become effective immediately.

7,	BY THE ORDER OF TH	HE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
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10	CHAIRMAN	COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER
12	Level Sellar	In.
13	COMMISSIONER	COMMISSIONER
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15		IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I BRIAN C. McNEIL, Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this
16		Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this
17		Phoenix, this, day of, 2005.
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19		Sen /. M//
20		BKIAN C. McNEII Executive Secretary
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22	DISSENT.	······································
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24	DISSENT:	
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1	SERVICE LIST FOR: Big Park Water Company, Inc.
2	DOCKET NO. W-01624A-05-0276
3	Mr. Richard L. Sallquist
4	Sallquist & Drummond, P.C.
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6	Mr. Stevan S. Gudovic
7	President Big Park Water Company, Inc.
8	45 Castle Rock Road, Suite 4
9	Sedona. Arizona 86336
10	Mr. Ernest G. Johnson Director, Utilities Division
11	Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington
12	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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14	Chief Counsel Arizona Corporation Commission
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Decision No. 67882

TARIFF SCHEDULE

UTILITY: Big Park Water Company, Inc. DOCKET NO.: W-01624A-05-0276

DECISION NO.	67882	
EFFECTIVE DATE:		

ARSENIC IMPACT HOOK-UP FEE TARIFF

I. Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of the Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff payable to **Big Park Water Company**, **Inc.** ("the Company") pursuant to this tariff is to equitably apportion the costs of constructing water treatment plant facilities to treat and remove arsenic. These charges are applicable to all new service connections established after the effective date of the tariff. The charges are one-time charges and are payable as a condition to the Company's establishment of service, as more particularly provided below.

II. <u>Definitions</u>

Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions set forth in R-14-2-401 of the Arizona Corporation Commission's ("Commission") rules and regulations governing water utilities shall apply in interpreting, this tariff schedule.

"Applicant" means any party entering into an agreement with the Company for the installation of water facilities to serve new service connections.

"Arsenic Treatment Facilities" means treatment equipment and related appurtenances necessary for the removal of arsenic through treatment of water to meet the 10 parts per billion ("ppb") arsenic standards.

"Company" means Big Park Water Company, Inc., an Arizona corporation.

"Main Extension Agreement" means any agreement whereby an applicant agrees to advance the costs of the installation of water facilities to the Company to serve new service connections, or install water facilities to serve new service connections and transfer ownership of such water facilities to the Company, which agreement shall require the approval of the Commission's Utilities Division (same as line extension agreement).

"Service Connection" means and includes all service connections for residential, commercial, industrial, or other uses, regardless of meter size.

III. Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff Charges

Each new service connection shall pay the Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff derived from the following table:

ARSENIC IMPACT HOOK-UP FEE TARIFF TABLE				
Meter Size	Meter Factor	Fee		
5/8" x 3/4" •	1	\$660		
3/4"	1.2	\$800		
1"	2	\$1,320		
1-1/2"	4	\$2,640		
2"	6.4	\$4,230		
3"	12	\$7,920		
4"	20	\$13,200		
6" or larger	40	\$26,400		

IV. Terms and Conditions

- (A) Assessment of One Time Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff Charge: The tariff may be assessed only once per service connection, or lot within a platted subdivision (similar to service line and meter installation charges). However, this provision does not exempt from the Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee, any newly created parcel(s) which are the result of further subdivision of a lot or land parcel and which do not have a service connection.
- (B) Use of Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff: Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff may only be used to pay for capital items of arsenic treatment facilities (including engineering and design costs for such facilities), or for repayment of loans obtained for installation of arsenic treatment facilities. Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff shall not be used for expenses, maintenance, or operational purposes.

(C) <u>Time of Payment:</u>

In the event that the Applicant is required to enter into a main extension agreement, whereby the Applicant agrees to advance the costs of installing mains, valves, fittings, hydrants and other on-site improvements in order to extend service in accordance with R-14-2-406(B), payment of the charges required hereunder shall be made by the Applicant within 15 calendar days after receipt of notification from the Company that the Utilities Division of the Commission has approved the main extension agreement in accordance with R-14-2-406(M).

Big Park Water Company, Inc. Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff Page 3

- (2) In the event the Applicant is not required to enter into a main extension agreement, the charges hereunder shall be due and payable at the time the service line and meter installation charge is due and payable.
- (D) <u>Failure to Pay Charges, Delinquent Payments</u>: Under no circumstances will the Company set a meter or otherwise allow service to be established if the Applicant has not paid in full all charges as provided by this tariff.
- (E) <u>Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff Non-refundable</u>: The amounts collected by the Company pursuant to the tariff shall be non-refundable advances in aid of construction.
- (F) <u>Use of Charges Received</u>: All funds collected by the Company pursuant to the tariff shall be deposited into a separate interest bearing trust account and used solely for the purposes of paying for the costs of arsenic treatment facilities (including engineering and design costs for such facilities), including repayment of loans obtained for the installation of arsenic treatment facilities that will benefit the entire water system.
- Arsenic Impact Hook-up Fee Tariff in Addition to Other Charges: The tariff shall be in addition to any costs associated with a main extension agreement for on-site facilities, and are in addition to the amounts to be advanced pursuant to charges authorized under other sections of this tariff.
- (H) <u>Disposition of Excess Funds</u>: After all necessary funds are collected to pay for all Arizona Department of Environmental Quality required arsenic treatment facilities or the tariff has been terminated by order of the Commission, any funds not necessary to pay for arsenic treatment facilities remaining in the trust shall be refunded. The manner of the refund shall be determined by the Commission at the time a refund becomes necessary.